

Subject: : Gear Talk

Topic: : Thinking about a boat

Re: Thinking about a boat

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I have a kayak, solo-canoë and raft/kickboat combo.

Here is how I see it from my experiences. The yak (Sit on Top) is good for just about any water. Rivers, lakes, streams and large ponds. It can move easily on lakes or still water and cover distance for different spots you may want to fish. It can be loaded for overnight trips and it is a very staple craft, as in I have never taken a spill. The canoe is similar, but can be loaded with more camping gear. It has a down side...affected by the wind a little more than the yak and that depends on the canoe. Mine has lower sides and some have high sides and more affected. The canoe feels more unstable at first, but you get adjusted quickly and find it is only slightly less than the yak...I have never spilled in the canoe. The inflatable raft/kickboat is my most comfortable boat and the one I use 95% of the time on rivers and ponds. Not good on lakes if you want to cover any distances or spot jumping. It is awesome in the river, since you use fins on your feet to position the boat with a couple kicks. I keep it inflated on its side in the garage all season and deflated on a shelf in the winter. It is a Dave Scadden Assault. I love this thing!

For rivers, all 3 boats need a second car at the take out. I belong to a kayak fishing club and we always have guys ready to fish and shuttle cars available. Lakes, you can do solo.

My suggestion is whatever boat you get, get a solo. Tandems are ok, but not as much freedom hard to navigate solo. The best part of any of these is you toss on the car roof and go to any public water...ramp or no ramp and you are on the water in minutes. Don't get caught up in adding all kinds of gadgets to your boat, as that just makes for more time to load and set up to get on the water and defeats the best part of a boat.

These are just my opinions.

Hope you find something that makes fishing fun for you.